and Company, Madras, for re-absorbing all the workers, who have been retrenched, in the new concern Vummidiyars' Manufacturers, Limited; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The request in the memorandum was considered by the Government and it was found that as the award of the Industrial Tribunal, Madras, in the dispute was in force only till 23rd July 1948, the management could not be asked to absorb all the workers and that the workers were not also entitled to any gratuity, as the award did not contain any direction to that effect. Sri S. Krishnamoorthi was informed accordingly.

* 67 Q.—SRI C. KANDASAMY : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(a) whether any dispute is pending disposal in connection with re-absorption of workers retrenched due to a strike in 1951 in Messrs. Spencer and Company, Madras ; and

(b) if so, the details of the same?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Registration of handlooms

* 68 Q.—SRI N. K. PALANISAMY : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government have issued orders to get all the handlooms in the State registered during June 1956?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : The Government of India have issued an order on 8th May 1956 that no person shall, after the commencement of that order, use or have in his possession any handloom unless it is registered and registration certificate issued in respect thereof is in force. The Director of Handlooms is taking steps to register the handlooms in this State in pursuance of this order.

SRI N. K. PALANISAMY : Sir, in registering handloom weavers, they are registering only house owners and not the tenant weavers in the house or the wage labourers for weaving in that house. Therefore, may I know whether the Government will instruct their officers who are registering these men to register all weavers including the wage labourers and tenant weavers?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : I would suggest to the hon. Member to give this in writing to me so that I may look into it.

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP : Sir, does this registration imply that no further licence for registration of handlooms will be allowed after a particular date?

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THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : No, Sir. The registration is proposed to be undertaken with a view to have complete data for further planning with reference to permanent habitation of handlooms.

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI : Sir, is the Hon. Minister aware that the Central Government in their notification asking for registration of handlooms did not give the reasons for the sudden order and, as a result of that, there is a lot of agitation and apprehension among the handloom weavers? I would like to know what the proposals of the Government to allay those apprehensions are.

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : I have just now given the main reason behind this proposal to have all handlooms registered. This Government are taking steps to explain to the handloom weavers how this registration would not affect them in the least and why in their own interest this registration is undertaken. We are taking every step to allay all fears and misgivings on the part of the handloom weavers.

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI : Will the Hon. Minister consider the desirability of calling a representative conference of the handloom weavers from various States, discuss with them the whole problem —for example, the State Handloom Board can be taken into confidence—and try to evolve a proper method for registering the handlooms? Because, I know that there is a lot of agitation now among the handloom weavers.

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : I propose to have what the Government propose to explain in detail printed in Tamil and circulated widely among the handloom weavers to enable them to understand what exactly the Government are doing. If necessary, the Government will consider whether they should call a conference of representatives to explain the position further.

SRI S. DAIVASIGAMONEY : Sir, there are master weavers and ordinary weavers working under the master weavers. There are independent handloom weavers having looms in their own houses. Is the Hon. Minister aware that it will be a great hardship for these handloom weavers if they were asked to register themselves? May I know whether any officer has been appointed for the purpose of registering them or whether the handloom weavers have to go to a particular office and get themselves registered? Is there any fee for registration? Is there a penal clause for non-registration and if so, will it not create considerable hardship to the handloom weavers? 9-10 a.m.

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : The Government will then and there go into the various questions raised by the hon. Member to see that the handloom weavers are not put to any difficulty in the matter.

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR : The Hon. Minister was saying that a leaflet will be published for explaining to the weavers

the implications of the scheme. May I know whether such a leaflet will be published in Malayalam also so that the Malayalee weavers may be benefited?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM: If the scheme comes into effect before 1st November, certainly, it will be published in Malayalam and Kannada also.

SRI K. VINAYAKAM: It is a well-known fact that the handloom trade was a bit remunerative sometime back, but it is not giving good returns at the present time. As a result of this, many people who were depending upon handloom weaving have now ceased to be weavers and have dismantled their handlooms. Will the Government take steps to register them also so that their case may not go unheard if and when the Government at a later date consider the question of introducing control?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM: The hon. Member with all his experience is not exactly correct when he says that the handloom trade is not paying now. I may tell the hon. Member that the handlooms do pay better now than they were doing sometime back. If some of the handloom weavers have dismantled their looms, certainly, there is the programme of expansion, and when the co-operative societies invite all handloom weavers to get into the co-operative fold, there should not be any difficulty for them to do so. So, I may tell my friend, Sri Vinayakam, that even if there were handloom weavers who have dismantled their looms, there would be no difficulty in their coming into the co-operative fold. That would fit in with our expansion programme.

SRI S. DAIVASIGAMONEY: What will happen to the handloom weaver who does not register himself? Is it left to the option of the individual handloom weavers to register themselves as handloom weavers?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM: Sir, there should be no difficulty at all for these weavers to register themselves. The Government will extend all facilities to them in the matter. Therefore, the hon. Member need not raise unnecessary apprehensions in the matter which might confuse the weavers themselves.

SRI K. P. GOPALAN: May I know whether, along with the registration of the looms, will the Government consider the question of registering the handloom weavers, their names and their services?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM: I may tell the hon. Member that it is not covered by the Government of India's order that I had referred to.

SRI P. KUNHIRAMA KIDAV: May I know whether the order refers to pit looms also?

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THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : It refers to all handlooms.

SRI G. GOVINDAN : கைத்தறி துணி நிறைய தேங்கிக் கிடப்பதாகவும், அதனால் கைத்தறித் தொழிலாளர்கள் பாதிக்கப்பட்டிருப்பதாகவும் சொல்லப்படுகிறது. ஆகையால் எம்.எல்.ஏ.-க்கள் கைத்தறித் துணியையே அவசியம் வாங்கிக் கட்டுவதற்கு சர்க்கார் ஏற்பாடு செய்வார்களா ?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : இந்தத் திருப்பணியை சர்க்கார் எடுத்துக்கொள்ளுவதைவிட கனம் அங்கத்தினரைப் போன்றவர்கள் எடுத்துக்கொள்ளலாம்.

SRI S. RAMALINGAM : கைத்தறி நெசவாளர்கள் தங்களைப் பதிவு செய்துகொள்ளுவதின் மூலமாக அவர்களுக்குச் சர்க்கார் என்னென்ன சலுகைகள் கொடுக்கும் ?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : If any specific instances where the weavers find it difficult to have their looms registered are given, the Government will examine them.

SRI K. VINAYAKAM : At the present moment, the Government communique makes it clear that the registration will be purely on a voluntary basis. Suppose a weaver does not come forward to register his loom, what will be his fate? Will he be penalized for non-registration? Will the Government take steps to help the handloom weavers under such circumstances?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Sir, I have already stated that the Government would extend all facilities to enable the handloom weavers to register their looms. At the same time, the Government will also see that they are not put to any difficulty.

SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM : பாக்டரிகளில் தனிப்பட்ட மாஸ்டர் வீவர்களுக்குச் சொந்தமான தறிகள் பதிவு செய்யப்படும்பொழுது, தொழிலாளர்களின் பேரில் பதிவு செய்யப்படுகிறதா அல்லது பாக்டரி சொந்தக்காரர்கள் மாஸ்டர் வீவர்களின் பேரில் பதிவு செய்யப்படுகிறதா என்று அறிய விரும்புகிறேன்.

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : According to the information available with me, I believe, the registration will be on the basis of ownership of the loom.

SRI S. DAIVASIGAMONEY : May I know whether the communiqué regarding registration is only a sort of suggestion to the weaver or whether it is compulsory?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : After the registration is completed, the weaver is expected not to have a loom which does not come under the registration.

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI : May I tell the Hon. Minister that the Central Government's order asking for the registration of the handlooms says that the looms should be registered in the name of those who are in possession of the handloom? So, the question of ownership does not come in. May I also point out that because of the Madras Government interpreting 'possession' as 'ownership',

a lot of complications are created? Will the Government therefore see to it that they properly interpret the Government of India's order?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Sir, the Government of Madras are not interested in giving a particular interpretation. But, sometimes possession would depend on ownership also. (Sri P. Ramamurthi : Not necessarily.) I agree, not necessarily. All those things will be taken into account when the looms are registered.

SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM : இந்தத் தகராருக்கு இடமில்லாமல் தரிகளை ரிஜிஸ்டர் செய்யும்பொழுது தறிகளில் வேலை செய்யக்கூடிய தொழிலாளர்களையும் சேர்த்து பதிவு செய்ய சர்க்கார் நடவடிக்கை எடுக்குமா ?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Sir, the Government will examine that suggestion also.

Conversion of handlooms into powerlooms

* 69 *Q.*—SRI N. K. PALANISAMY : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether this Government have received any communication from the Centre during June 1956 with regard to issuing of licences for new textile mills in the State; and

(*b*) whether there is any proposal to convert the handlooms into powerlooms in the State?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : (*a*) No, Sir.

(*b*) A scheme has been formulated by the Government of India for the installation of powerlooms by handloom weavers on a co-operative basis. The scheme is under the consideration of this Government.

SRI N. K. PALANISAMY : On the floor of the House, the Hon. Minister had stated that he categorically opposed the introduction of powerlooms in the State. May I know how the State Government have now agreed to the Central Government's proposal to introduce powerlooms in the State?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : The attitude of this Government with reference to the Government of India's proposal is that the specific proposal is not at all inconsistent with the policy which I have announced in this House sometime ago. I believe the hon. Leader of the Opposition has given notice of a resolution on this matter and I hope on the coming non-official day it may be taken up. Then, I think I could have sufficient time to explain better the implications behind the proposal of the Government of India.

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP : What is the attitude of this Government to the policy suggested by the Central Government?